4th Swiss Implementation Science Conference

True IMPACT – Delivering Innovation for Patients and the Public

12–13 February 2026

Welcome to Zurich

Implementation Science bridges the gap between research and practice. It ensures that innovations in health care reach patients and the public.
The 4th Swiss Implementation Science Conference brings together researchers, practitioners, policy makers and other interested stakeholders to explore how Implementation Science can effectively contribute to the translation of innovations from research to practice. The conference will demonstrate how the daily work of health researchers, practitioners and policy makers can benefit from Implementation Science.

Showcasing Swiss and International Projects
The conference will provide a platform for showcasing both Swiss and international projects that have translated research findings into clinical practice and other real-world settings. Participants will gain insights into exemplary implementation challenges, innovative implementation approaches, and lessons learned. These showcases together with the submitted abstracts will highlight the diversity of Implementation Science applications across healthcare settings and disciplines.

Networking Opportunities for Researchers and Practitioners
Creating meaningful connections is essential to advance Implementation Science. This conference will offer ample opportunities for researchers from academia as well as pharmaceutical/biotech companies and practitioners to engage in dialogue, share experiences, and initiate collaborations.

Inspiring Methodological Input
The conference will provide valuable input on cutting-edge methodologies in Implementation Science, while also drawing inspiration from other fields of research. Experts will present practical tools and frameworks to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of implementation.

Preconference Workshops
A series of preconference workshops will offer: a solid first step into Implementation Science, inspiring further education and a hands-on workshop for practitioners.

Stay "up-to-date" on the program and activities:

Institute for Implementation Science in Health Care, University of Zurich
Prof. Dr. Lauren Clack
Prof. Dr. Rahel Naef
Dr. Peter Brauchli
ifis.uzh.ch
impact2026@ifis.uzh.ch

IMPACT Executive Committee
Prof. Dr. Sabina De Geest
Prof. Dr. Marie Schneider
Dr. Peter Brauchli
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Members of the IMPACT core group represent the following institutions:

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Preconference Events

Rethinking Theorizing in Implementation Science Symposium
Wednesday, 11 February 2026, 10.00-16.00, KOL-H-317

The research group for Implementation Science in Health Care at the University of Zurich invites you to the Rethinking Theorizing in Implementation Science Symposium 2026.
Join us if you are working in implementation – as a researcher, practitioner, policy or community partner – to explore how theory can help us better understand and improve what we do.

Speakers:
Prof. Dr. Sarah Birken, School of Medicine, Wake Forest University, USA
Prof. Dr. Tracy Finch, Northumbria University, United Kingdom
Prof. Dr. Roman Kislov, Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom
Dr. Lisa Pfadenhauer, LMU Munich, Germany

Host:
Prof. Dr. Lauren Clack

Please check out the detailed program to learn more about learning goals and level of expertise recommended to register. Please register here: ema.uzh.ch/RATWF
Participation is free of charge. No conference registration is required.

Implementation Science in Pharma & Biotech: Shaping an IMPACTful Working Group
Thursday, 12 February 2026, 10.00-12.00, KOL-G-212 EV

Join us in defining how IMPACT can collaborate to create synergies between Implementation Science and Pharma and Biotech and shape a collaborative platform that bridges science and industry to maximize real-world impact. Specific goals of this session are:
- Explore success stories
- Identify opportunities and barriers for embedding Implementation Science more systematically in Pharma and Biotech
- Co-create a strategic blueprint for how the IMPACT working group can foster faster, easier, and more effective uptake of Implementation Science across the sector

Co-Hosts:
Prof. Dr. Sabina de Geest
Dr. Skip Olson

Participation is free of charge, no conference registration is required.
Please register with impact-dph@unibas.ch

Preconference Workshops
Thursday, 12 February 2026

08.30-09.00	Arrival and registration at Info Point	Entrance Rämistr. 71

Please check out the detailed [preconference program](#) to learn more about learning goals and level of expertise recommended to apply.

09.00-12.00	**Bridging the Know-Do Gap: An Introduction to Implementation Science** *Kathrin Blum,* Institute for Implementation Science in Health Care, University of Zurich *Dr. Juliane Mielke,* Institute of Nursing Science, Department Public Health, University of Basel *Dr. Sarah Serhal,* School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Geneva, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Western Switzerland, University of Geneva	KOL-F-118
09.00-12.00	**How to Use Implementation Science Principles in Real-World Settings – A Step-by-Step Approach** *Dr. Lotte Verweij*, Institute for Implementation Science in Health Care, University of Zurich, Center for Clinical Nursing Science, University Hospital Zurich *Marta Castro,* Center for Clinical Nursing Science, University Hospital Zurich *Dr. Suzanne Dhaini*, Clinical Nursing Science, University Children's Hospital Zurich, Institute of Nursing Science, University of Basel	Aula KOL-G-201
09.00-12.00	**Advancing Implementation Through Design Science: Integrating Human-Centered Design and Innovation in Healthcare Research** *Prof. Dr. Anna Lisa Martin-Niedecken*, Institute for Design Research, Department of Design, Zurich University of the Arts *Dr. Bastiaan Van Grootven,* Institute of Nursing Science, University of Basel	KOL-F-121
09.00-12.00	**Leveraging Technology for Successful Implementation Studies** *Prof. Dr. Tobias Kowatsch*, Institute for Implementation Science in Health Care, University of Zurich, School of Medicine, University of St. Gallen	KOL-E-18

Conference Program
Thursday, 12 February 2026

Moderators of the Day:
Prof. Dr. Lauren Clack, Prof. Dr. Rahel Naef

12.00-13.00	Arrival and Registration at Info Point	Entrance Rämistr. 71
13.00-13.05	**Conference Opening** *Prof. Dr. Lauren Clack*	Aula KOL-G-201
13.05-13.15	**Welcome Address** *Prof. Dr. Dr. med. Frank Rühli,* Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Zurich Moderator: *Prof. Dr. Rahel Naef*	
13.15-14.00	**Keynote Address** **Implementation as Boundary Spanning: Reflections on Leading, Facilitating, and Sustaining Evidence-Based Change** *Prof. Dr. Roman Kislov,* Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom Moderator: *Prof. Dr. Lauren Clack*	Aula KOL-G-201
14.00-14.45	**Showcases** **Navigating Stakeholder Complexity: Lessons from Cancer Screening Research** *PD Dr. med. Kevin Selby,* Unisanté, Lausanne, Switzerland **Game on: Enter the Room of Horrors, Leave with Awareness, Be ready for Change** *Dr. Andrea Balmer,* Foundation for Patient Safety, Zurich Moderators: *Prof. Dr. Carla Meyer-Masetti, Prof. Dr. Marie Schneider*	Aula KOL-G-201
14.45-15.30	Coffee Break	Lichthof Süd
15.30-16.30	**Parallel session I: Hot Topics in Practice** **Implementation of Precision Medicine in Treating Non-Communicable Diseases: A Systematic Review** *Elizabeth Kennedy,* Implementation to Impact (i2i), School of Population Health, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia	Aula KOL-G-201

Preliminary Findings from a Multisite, National Implementation-Science-Informed Process Mapping Study: Optimizing Implementation in the Australian Hepatitis C Virus Point-of-Care Testing Program
Dr. Andrea Torres-Robles, Implementation to Impact (i2i), University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

An Emotional-Distress-Based Integrated Care Programme in Patients With an Acute Exacerbation of COPD: A Study Protocol for a Feasibility Study
Dr. Christine Hübsch, Centre of Clinical Nursing Science, University Hospital Zurich

Unpacking the Implementation of Written Exposure Therapy for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder to Strengthen Mental Health Services: A Scoping Review
Shannon Tracey, Atlas Institute for Veterans and Families, Ottawa, Canada

Moderator: *Dr. Bastiaan Van Grootven*

15.30-16.30 **Parallel session II: Digital Health**   KOL-F-118

Implementing a Digital Health Pathway for Pediatric Tracheostomy: Barriers, Facilitators, and Implementation Strategies Informed by CFIR-ERIC Matching Tool
Daniel Ofosu, Department of Pediatrics, University of Alberta, Canada

Strengthening Partnerships in Virtual Health Innovations among Rural and Remote Communities across Canada, Australia, and New Zealand: A Qualitative Study
Emily Payne, University of British Columbia, Canada

Digital Determinants of Health: A Systematic Scoping Review of Existing Conceptual Frameworks
Mireia Cano, eHealth Lab Research Group, School of Health Sciences and eHealth Centre, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain

Using Computational Modeling to Guide Hypertension Implementation Strategies: Adaptation from São Paulo to Aracaju, Brazil
*Pei Shan Loo, S*wiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Allschwil, University of Basel

Moderator: *Cassie Wu*

15.30-17.30	**Parallel session III: Workshop for the Pharmaceutical Industry** – **Implementation Science: First Successes and Opportunities for Collaboration**	KOL-F-121

Case Study 1: The HELyx study: Accelerating Diagnosis in Hidradenitis Suppurativa
Dr. Benjamin Häberle, Integrated Evidence Generation Lead, Novartis

Case Study 2: Implementation Science in the Pharmaceutical Industry – Case Study & Reflections
James Lister, Senior Director, Global Healthcare Improvement Capabilities Lead, Eli Lilly

Moderators: *Prof. Dr. Sabina De Geest, Dr. Skip Olson*

16.45-17.30	**Showcases**	Aula KOL-G-201

Embedding Implementation Research in Policy and Practice: Lessons from Eight Countries Advancing Noncommunicable Disease Prevention and Control
Dr. Giulia Loffreda, Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (HSR), Science Division | World Health Organization, Geneva

Understanding how Swiss Clinical Trial Units support Patient Engagement in Research: Results from the SPIRIT Study
Maëlle Achard, University of Geneva

Moderators: *Prof. Dr. Carla Meyer-Masetti, Prof. Dr. Marie Schneider*

17.30-19.00	Apéro riche*	Lichthof Süd
18.45-20.00	City tour from campus to main station*	Entrance Rämistr. 71
18.45-19.30	Mindfulness Session*	KOL-F-118

Moderator: *Ursina Wälchli*

* Registration for social events is required, participation free of charge:
ema.uzh.ch/RUCWP

Program Conference
Friday, 13 February 2026

Moderators of the Day:
Prof. Dr. Rahel Naef, Prof. Dr. Lauren Clack

08.15-09.00	Arrival and Registration at Info Point	Entrance Rämistr. 71

09.00-09.15	**Inspirational Welcome Address** **Measuring True Impact: Beyond Metrics** **– Listening to Lives** *Dr. Judith Safford,* President of RheumaCura Foundation Moderator: *Prof. Dr. Rahel Naef*	Aula KOL-G-201

09.15-10.00	**Keynote Address** **The Potential of System Science for Implementation Science** *Dr. Catherine Decouttere,* Access-To-Medicines Research Centre, KU Leuven One Health Institute, Belgium Moderator: *Prof. Dr. Sabina De Geest*	Aula KOL-G-201

10.00-10.20	**Poster Flashes** **Assessing Contextual Factors and Mechanisms Influencing the Adoption of a Cirrhosis Order Set in Complex Tertiary Healthcare Systems: A Theory-Informed Mid-Term Implementation Evaluation** *Ayesha Iqbal,* Office of Lifelong Learning & the Physician Learning Program, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada **Structured Design of a Contextualized, Scalable Youth Mental Health Intervention: The Be Well Program** *Prof. Dr. Brittany Schuler,* Temple University, Philadelphia, USA **Embedding a Co-Designed Digital Intervention to Reduce Restrictive Practices in Care Homes: An Implementation Science Evaluation Using the Theoretical Framework of Acceptability** *Dr. Gary Mitchell,* Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, United Kingdom	Aula KOL-G-201

Stakeholder Perspectives on Transitional Care for Older Adults in a Decentralised Health System: Qualitative Insights for Intervention Design
Laura Maria Steiner, Nursing Research Competence Centre, Department of Nursing, Ente Ospedaliero Cantonale, Bellinzona, Switzerland

Development of a Toolkit to Support Implementation Practice: How Relational Are Technical Solutions in Implementation Practice?
Dr. Leah Bührmann, Northumbria University, Newcastle, United Kingdom

Contextual Analysis of Nursing Research Capacity and Evidence-Based Practice: A cross-sectional study
Marta Castro, Centre of Clinical Nursing Science, University Hospital Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

Bridging the Language Gap in Implementation Research: Translating and Culturally Adapting Implementation Outcome Measures (AIM, IAM, FIM) for French-speaking Contexts
Dr. Sarah Rondeaux, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Barriers to Sustainable Precision Oncology: A CFIR-Guided Implementation Study of Molecular Tumour Boards (MTBs) in Australasia
Dr. Shuang Liang, Implementation to Impact (i2i), School of Population Health, UNSW Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Moderation: *Prof. Dr. Thekla Brunkert*

Time	Session	Location
10.20-11.00	**Poster Presentations and Poster Walks**	Lichthof Süd
	The info on Poster Presentations and Poster Walks will be published on our website in January 2026	
10.20-11.20	Coffee Break	Lichthof Nord
11.30-12.30	**Parallel session IV: Implementation Methods**	Aula KOL-G-201

The Application of Implementation Science Theories, Models, and Frameworks in Guiding Sustainability Planning, Evaluation, and Measurement in Health Care: A Systematic Review
Cassie Wu, Institute for Implementation Science in Health Care, University of Zurich

Driving Change with Data: A Scalable Quality Improvement Intervention in partnership with Swiss Long-Term Care Facilities
Prof. Dr. Nathalie IH Wellens, HES-SO University of Applied Sciences & Arts Western Switzerland, Institut et Haute Ecole de la Santé La Source, Lausanne

From Plan to Practice: Using Implementation Mapping to Develop Theory Based, Adaptable and Context Appropriate Implementation Strategies for the Delivery of myCare Start in Switzerland
Dr. Sarah Serhal, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Geneva, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Western Switzerland, University of Geneva

Why Implementation Strategies Differ in Mechanisms and Outcomes: A Normalisation Process Theory Analysis of Intrinsic Capacity Screening in Primary Care Clinics and Community Centres
Dr. Grace Sum, Geriatric Education & Research Institute, Singapore

Moderator: *Dr. Suzanne Dhaini*

11.30-12.30	**Parallel session V: Prevention**	KOL-F-118

Results of Implementing Preventive Counselling in Swiss Primary Care Settings via e-learning
Dr. Dunja Nicca, Epidemiology Biostatistics and Prevention Institute, University of Zurich

Effectiveness of the DE-imFAR implementation Strategies to Improve Reach and Adoption of the Recommended Cardiovascular Disease Primary Prevention Practice in Primary Care
Dr. Alvaro Sanchez, Primary Care Research Unit of Bizkaia, Osakidetza/Basque Health Service, Barakaldo, Spain, Biobizkaia Health Research Institute, Barakaldo, Spain

Beyond Implementation: A Cluster RCT to Sustain Delivery of a Mandatory School Physical Activity Policy
Prof. Dr. Nicole Nathan, National Centre of Implementation Science, University of Newcastle, Australia, Hunter Medical Research Institute, Newcastle, Australia

The SWAP IT Scale-Up: Evidence into Action for Healthier Schools
Prof. Dr. Rachel Sutherland, University of Newcastle, Australia, National Centre of Implementation Science, Newcastle, Australia

Moderator: *PD Dr. Christina Akré*

11.30-12.30	**Parallel session VI: Care in Older Persons**	KOL-F-121

De-Implementation of low-value home-based Nursing care: An Effect and Process Evaluation
Prof. Dr. Erwin Ista, Erasmus MC, University Medical Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Implementation of Integrative Nursing in Oncology Inpatient Care: Healthcare Professionals' Perspectives
Lea Raiber, Research Group Integrative Medicine, Ulm University Medical Center, Ulm, Germany, Interprofessional Graduate School Integrative Medicine and Health, Witten/Herdecke University, Witten, Germany

Improving Hospital-to-home Transitions for Older Adults: Testing and Implementing a Patient-oriented Discharge Summary
Prof. Dr. Joanie Pellet, Institute of Higher Education and Research in Healthcare (IUFRS), Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV), University of Lausanne

Engaging Older Adults and Informal Caregivers to Improve Hospital-to-Home Transitions: Insights from a Citizen Panel
Opeyemi Kolade, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Be'er sheva, Israel, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

Moderator: *Prof. Dr. med. Carole Elodie Aubert*

12.30-13.30	Lunch	Lichthof Süd

12.30-13.30	**Implementation Lunch hosted by INFo↔P: How to achieve "True Impact"**	KOL-E-13

Join the INFo<->P network for an informal lunchtime exchange on how findings from Implementation Science can lead to real-world impact. In small table discussions, participants will reflect on ideas and insights that have emerged throughout the conference and identify themes that are particularly relevant for advancing implementation in practice, research, and policy. Bring your lunch, your thoughts, and your curiosity — and enjoy an hour of inspiring conversations and networking.

Co-Hosts: *Dr. Leah Bührmann, Dr. Monika Finsterwald, Dr. Marie-Therese Schultes, Dr. Monika Sztankay, Dr. Tina Quasdorf*

13.30-14.00	**What's next? The IMPACT strategy and actions** *Prof. Dr. Sabina De Geest,* Institute of Nursing Science, Department Public Health, University of Basel	Aula KOL-G-201

Moderator: *Prof. Dr. Kaspar Wyss*

14.00-14.30	**Inspiration** **From Evidence to Impact: How Design Shapes the Future of Digital Health** *Prof. Dr. Anna Lisa Martin-Niedecken*, Institute for Design Research, Department of Design, Zurich University of the Arts	Aula KOL-G-201

Moderator: *Dr. Bastiaan Van Grootven*

14.30-15.30	**Keynote Address** **Strategic Directions for the Future of Implementation Science** *Dr. David Chambers*, NCI, USA	Aula KOL-G-201

Moderator: *Prof. Dr. Lauren Clack*

15.30-16.00	**Closing Ceremony** *Prof. Dr. Lauren Clack, Prof. Dr. Rahel Naef*	Aula KOL-G-201

Awards Young Researchers:
Dr. Marco Riguzzi

Lecturers Preconference

Kathrin Blum

Kathrin A. Blum is a Psychologist and PhD candidate at the Institute for Implementation Science in Health Care, University of Zurich. Before joining academia, she built an extensive career in IT consulting, specializing in business process reengineering and guiding organizations through transition and change initiatives. Prior to her doctoral studies, she contributed to a research project implementing software for evidence-based mental health assessments for children in low- and middle-income countries. Her current research focuses on tailoring implementation strategies to specific contexts and systematically monitoring their impact throughout the implementation process.

Marta Castro

Marta Castro is a Research Associate at the Center for Clinical Nursing Science, University Hospital Zurich, where she leads the full design and implementation of a pioneering research and evidence-based practice capacity-building program for nurses across all career stages. Beyond capacity building, Marta contributes to new care model's research. Drawing on clinical expertise in neonatal intensive nursing care and international health insurance, with work experience in Portugal, Ireland, and Switzerland, she is passionate to translate the best evidence into clinical settings and Nursing development. In addition, Marta is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Clinical Research and Health Services at the Medicine Faculty of the University of Porto, Portugal.

Dr. Suzanne Dhaini

Suzanne R. Dhaini is the Head of Nursing Research at the University Children's Hospital Zurich and a scientific collaborator at the University of Basel. She is a former Assistant Professor tenure track at the Hariri School of Nursing, American University of Beirut. Her work focuses on improving care quality through evidence-based nursing practices, workforce, and innovative community care models. Suzanne Dhaini has led and collaborated on several projects advancing nursing science and patient-centered care.

Prof. Dr. Tobias Kowatsch

Tobias Kowatsch is Associate Professor for Digital Health Interventions at the Institute for Implementation Science in Health Care, University of Zurich. He is also Director at the School of Medicine, University of St. Gallen, and Co-Chair and Core Director for Precision Digital Therapeutics at the Centre for Digital Health Interventions (c4dhi.org, CDHI). CDHI is a joint initiative of the Institute for Implementation Science in Health Care at the University of Zurich, the School of Medicine, and the Institute of Technology Management at the University of St. Gallen, and the Department of Management, Technology, and Economics at ETH Zurich. In close collaboration with his interdisciplinary team and research partners, Tobias Kowatsch designs digital health interventions at the intersection of information systems research, computer science, and behavioral medicine. In 2013, he initiated MobileCoach, an open-source platform for digital biomarker and health intervention research. In 2017, Tobias Kowatsch also co-founded Pathmate Technologies,

an ETH Zurich and University of St. Gallen spin-off that offers digital therapeutics (e.g., Manoa for individuals with hypertension).

Prof. Dr. Anna Lisa Martin-Niedecken

Anna Lisa Martin-Niedecken is Professor of Design Science at Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), specializing in digital health, healthcare, and sports. She heads the Institute for Design Research and has previously served as Deputy Director of the Department of Design. She also leads the cross-institutional Digital Health Design Living Lab (DHD LL), an interdisciplinary platform developing innovative, research-based solutions for the digital healthcare system in collaboration with universities, hospitals, patient organizations, and healthcare professionals. Trained as a sports scientist (TU Darmstadt) and active in design and HCI research, her work focuses on human-centered, evidence-based (co-)design and the evaluation of technology-driven health solutions, including Serious Games, Exergames and digital or AI-supported healthcare tools. Anna Lisa Martin-Niedecken has received multiple awards, including the SIGCHI Outstanding Dissertation Award, and is a frequent speaker at major events such as TEDxZurich. In 2020, she was named one of Switzerland's 100 Digital Shapers.

Dr. Juliane Mielke

Juliane Mielke is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute of Nursing Science, University of Basel, Switzerland. Trained as a registered nurse, she completed her PhD in Nursing Science in 2022, developing a methodology for studying context in implementation science. Juliane currently leads the CONSENS project on reporting context analysis. Her research focuses on integrating implementation science and systems science methods in integrated care research.

Dr. Sarah Serhal

Sarah Serhal is a Researcher within the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Geneva, Switzerland. She is a pharmacist with a Master's in international public health and a PhD from the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research and the University of Sydney, Australia. Her research explores ways we can address patient, medication, and healthcare related barriers to achieve optimal illness control and how these actions can be transformed into real-world impact using principles of implementation, behavioral, and systems sciences.

Dr. Bastiaan Van Grootven

Bastiaan Van Grootven is an SNF Ambizione fellow at the Institute for Nursing Science, University of Basel, with a strong focus on improving quality of care for older persons. He obtained his PhD in biomedical sciences from KU Leuven, Belgium, and has additional training in biomedical statistics and evaluating complex interventions. He currently leads the ENGAGE and COMMUNITY projects, which develop and test community-based programs to reduce frailty and social isolation among older adults. In addition, he contributes as a co-investigator to international trials such as RECOVER@HOME and is a member of several research consortia on integrated care, palliative care, and social isolation. His work combines evidence synthesis, program evaluation, and individualized healthcare approaches to advance implementation science in gerontology and geriatrics.

Dr. Lotte Verweij

Lotte Verweij is a Research Associate for Implementation Science in Nursing at the Institute for Implementation Science in Health Care at the University of Zurich and Center for Clinical Nursing Science at the University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland. Lotte is a registered nurse and clinical epidemiologist. In 2021, she completed her PhD at the University of Amsterdam focusing on transitional care processes in a frail population. Her current research focuses on the effective implementation of family support interventions in acute-critical care, as well as on the effective integration of patient and public involvement in healthcare research.

Lecturers Conference

Maëlle Achard

Trained as a nurse, Maëlle Achard holds Master's degrees in Educational Sciences, Research Management, and Public Health. She is currently a PhD candidate in Global Health at the University of Geneva. Her doctoral research, conducted within the SPIRIT project (Supporting Patient and Public Involvement in Research through Clinical Trial Units), examines how patients and the public can meaningfully influence the design and conduct of clinical research. Her broader interests include the evaluation of engagement practices, the professionalization of patient roles, and the development of citizen science approaches in health research.

Dr. Andrea Balmer

Andrea Balmer is a Research Associate at the Foundation for Patient Safety and leads the "Room of Horrors" project. She earned her doctorate in occupational and organizational psychology from the University of Bern, focusing on work-related stress and health in social work. Through her experience in diverse healthcare settings and her involvement in many patient safety implementation projects at the Foundation, she has a deep understanding of the demands placed on healthcare professionals and organizations, as well as effective strategies for optimizing safety and care processes. She is dedicated to fostering interprofessional collaboration among healthcare professionals and enhancing their competencies and capabilities in patient safety.

Dr. David Chambers

David Chambers is Deputy Director for Implementation Science in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). David Chambers manages a team focusing on efforts to build and advance the field of Implementation Science through funding opportunities, training programs, research activities, dissemination platforms, and enhancement of partnerships and networks to integrate research and practice. From 2008 through the fall of 2014, David Chambers served as Chief of the Services Research and Clinical Epidemiology Branch (SRCEB) of the Division of Services and Intervention Research at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). He arrived at NIMH in 2001, brought to the Institute to run the Dissemination and Implementation Research Program within SRCEB, developing a portfolio of grants to study the integration of scientific findings and effective clinical practices in mental health within real-world service settings. From 2006 to the fall of 2014, David Chambers also served as Associate Director for Dissemination and Implementation Research, leading National Institutes of Health (NIH) initiatives around the coordination of dissemination and implementation research in health, including a set of research announcements across multiple NIH Institutes and Centers, annual scientific conferences, and a summer training institute. He received his A.B. degree (with Honors) in Economics from Brown University, and an MSc and DPhil degree in Management Studies (Organisational Behaviour) from Oxford University (UK).

Dr. Catherine Decouttere

Catherine Decouttere is Director at the Access-To-Medicines Research Centre of KU Leuven and director at the Leuven One Health Institute. She holds a Master's in Civil Engineering and a PhD in Business Economics on Sustainable Immunization System Design for sub-Saharan Africa, both from KU Leuven. Central to her work is the development of conceptual and mathematical systems models to support policy makers and stakeholders in the transition toward more sustainable and resilient socio-economic systems related to human health and One Health (human-animal-ecosystem). Her key application fields are pandemic preparedness, health systems for infectious and chronic disease prevention and control, system design for medicine innovations.

Outside of academia, Catherine gained experience in public services wastewater management practices and flood control strategies in Belgium. She held leading R&D and innovation positions at Alpro, a plant-based food innovator where she aligned innovation strategy with sustainability principles. Later on she coached a diversity of industries and service organizations in Human Centered Design and Design Thinking.

Her main fields of expertise are systems thinking and systems modeling for Global Health and One Health, sustainability and human-centered design.

Prof. Dr. Sabina De Geest

Sabina De Geest is a Professor of Nursing at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Basel (Switzerland), and a part-time Professor of Nursing at KU Leuven (Belgium). She also holds adjunct faculty positions at Johns Hopkins University, the University of Pittsburgh, and New York University (USA).

Professor De Geest leads the PIONEER international research group, an interdisciplinary team focused on behavioral (e.g., medication adherence) and psychosocial issues in chronic illness, including transplantation, rheumatology, and geriatric populations. Her research is driven by implementation science methodologies and centers on developing innovative care models, many of which leverage eHealth technologies.

In addition, her work explores psychosocial and behavioral pathways and their impact on outcomes in chronic illness, as well as the development and validation of instruments to assess patient-reported outcomes. She is leading the Psychosocial Interest Group of the Swiss Transplant Cohort Study (stcs.ch). She is also a co-founder of the Swiss Implementation Science Network (impact-dph.unibas.ch).

Dr. Benjamin Häberle

Benjamin Häberle is a Medical Affairs Professional with over four years of experience in innovative evidence generation and clinical research. As the Integrated Evidence Generation Lead at Novartis Pharma GmbH, he has been co-creating the local German integrated evidence strategy in the areas of immunology and kidney disease, aiming to maximize project impact through a focus on healthcare relevance and optimal project design. He is the local study lead of the Novartis implementation science study HELyx in hidradenitis suppurativa and is embracing implementation science as an approach for optimal evidence generation.

Prof. Dr. Roman Kislov

Roman Kislov is Professor of Health Policy and Management at Manchester Metropolitan University. He has substantial experience in leading qualitative longitudinal research into the processes and practices of knowledge mobilization. Roman's research interests include communities of practice, boundary spanning, collective leadership and theory development. His work crosses disciplinary boundaries between organization studies, public administration and implementation science.

Roman is Knowledge Mobilisation Lead in Care Work (NIHR Adult Social Care Workforce Research Partnership) and Deputy Theme Lead for Implementation Science in the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Greater Manchester. He is Associate Editor of Implementation Science Communications and sits on the funding committee of the NIHR Health and Social Care Delivery Research (HSDR) Programme.

Prior to pursuing an academic career, Roman worked as a doctor for a gold mining company in Central Asia, combining clinical duties with a managerial role.

James Lister

James Lister is the Senior Director, Healthcare Improvement Capabilities Lead at Lilly, where he spearheads the global application of improvement and implementation science methodologies to bridge the know-do gap and enable the uptake of evidence into routine practice. James is driven by the goal of sustainably improving patient outcomes at scale and believes the key to achieving this is through cross-stakeholder collaboration and addressing systemic barriers in care. James holds a degree in Natural Sciences from the University of Cambridge and has a background in healthcare strategy consulting, where he supported pharmaceutical and biotech companies to solve complex business challenges, with a focus on Medical Affairs and Market Access strategy, functional transformation, and capability building.

Dr. Giulia Loffreda

Giulia Loffreda is a Scientist at the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, World Health Organization. She is dedicated to strengthening primary health care and advancing equitable health systems, with a particular focus on bridging the gap between evidence and policy in the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

At the Alliance, she leads multi-country initiatives that embed implementation research within health system processes, generating lessons on how evidence can inform the design, adaptation, and scale-up of NCD interventions in primary health care.

Giulia applies systems thinking, political economy analysis, and an embedded implementation research approach to foster collaboration between researchers and policymakers, strengthening learning health systems and promoting evidence-informed decision-making.

Prof. Dr. Anna Lisa Martin-Niedecken

Anna Lisa Martin-Niedecken is Professor of Design Science at Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), specializing in digital health, healthcare, and sports. She heads the Institute for Design Research and has previously served as Deputy Director of the Department of Design. She also leads the cross-institutional Digital Health Design Living Lab (DHD LL), an interdisciplinary platform developing innovative, research-based solutions for the digital healthcare system in collaboration with universities, hospitals, patient organizations, and healthcare professionals. Trained as a sports scientist (TU Darmstadt) and active in design

and HCI research, her work focuses on human-centered, evidence-based (co-)design and the evaluation of technology-driven health solutions, including Serious Games, Exergames and digital or AI-supported healthcare tools. Anna Lisa Martin-Niedecken has received multiple awards, including the SIGCHI Outstanding Dissertation Award, and is a frequent speaker at major events such as TEDxZurich. In 2020, she was named one of Switzerland's 100 Digital Shapers.

Prof. Dr. Dr. med. Frank Rühli

Frank Rühli is the Dean of the Medical Faculty of the University of Zurich. He studied Medicine at the University of Zurich and began his career at the Institute of Diagnostic Radiology, University Hospital Zurich. Following an International Postgraduate Research Scholarship, he completed his PhD at the University of Adelaide, where he also held a lectureship. From 2003 to 2014, he served in various academic roles at the Institute of Anatomy at the University of Zurich, completing his habilitation in 2007.

He founded and directed the Center of Evolutionary Medicine and later became the founding Chair and Director of the Institute of Evolutionary Medicine at the University of Zurich. He holds an EMBA from the University of Zurich and is a member of both the Science and Medical Faculties.

Dr. Judith Safford

Judith Safford trained as an economist in Germany and has dedicated her professional life to excellence in nonprofit management. Affected by spondyloarthritis and colitis since early adulthood, she is also a cancer survivor.

Her special interest is the involvement of patients in healthcare, particularly through their participation in medical research. She is co-founder and President of the RheumaCura Foundation, which advocates for people-centered arthritis research. Furthermore, she engages as a patient expert in healthcare research projects, teaches PPI to patients and researchers, is a PPI expert in the Investigator Initiated Clinical Trials Programme of the Swiss National Science Foundation, former director of Swiss registry for inflammatory rheumatic disease and is a Fellow of Sciana: The Health Leaders Network.

PD Dr. med. Kevin Selby

Kevin Selby works as an Attending Physician at Unisanté, Lausanne. He has divided his time between the general internal medicine clinic and teaching and research.

Kevin Selby's current research focuses on cancer prevention. He is studying how organized cancer screening programs work. By tailoring screening to risk profiles, he hopes to reduce side effects in low-risk patients and improve screening rates in high-risk patients. In addition, he is leading a research project supported by the Tobacco Prevention Fund (FPT) which is testing the implementation of a new approach to smoking cessation counseling by primary care physicians. Finally, he is interested in co-production or participatory research methodologies.

Moderators

PD Dr. Christina Akré

PD Christina Akre is a Socio-Anthropologist and PhD in Life Science, and Privat-docent at the Faculty of Biology and Medicine of the University of Lausanne. She also trained during one year as a research fellow at the Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (MA, USA). She is currently head of the Social Science Sector at the Department of Epidemiology and Health Systems at the Center for Primary Care and Public Health, Unisanté, leading a team of researchers in social sciences applied to public health. Her main fields of expertise are in adolescent health, qualitative health research, implementation science, and participatory research. She also acquired a 4-year experience as head of community health at the Ministry of Health of Canton of Vaud.

Prof. Dr. med. Carole Elodie Aubert

Carole E. Aubert is Attending Physician at the Department of General Internal Medicine of Bern University Hospital and Associate Professor at the University of Bern. She is pursuing a career as a clinical researcher with a special focus on quality of care, patient-centered care, and reduction of low-value care, particularly with an implementation science approach. She leads and collaborates on several projects notably funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and Horizon Europe. She is particularly experienced in mixed methods studies involving healthcare professionals and older adults with multimorbidity.

Prof. Dr. Thekla Brunkert

Thekla Brunkert is Assistant Professor of Interprofessional Primary Care at the Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine, University of Lucerne, Switzerland. She has substantial experience in leading implementation science research focused on developing and implementing innovative care models for complex populations. Her research program focuses specifically on caring for older adults with multiple chronic conditions across diverse healthcare settings, including primary care, nursing homes, and hospital-to-home care transitions.
She completed her Master's in Health Sciences at the University of Lucerne and earned her PhD in Nursing Science from the University of Basel. She further expanded her research expertise through a fellowship at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, and served as a postdoctoral researcher at the University Department of Geriatrics FELIX PLATTER in Basel.

Prof. Dr. Lauren Clack

Lauren Clack is Assistant Professor for Implementation Science in Health Care with tenure track at the University of Zurich. She holds a PhD in psychology from the University of Zurich and an MSc in Applied Ergonomics from the University of Nottingham.
She began working as a behavioral scientist in the field of hospital infection prevention at the University Hospital Geneva (2011-2012), where she was involved in international research projects that sought to define the core components of infection prevention programs and explore the factors influencing implementation of infection prevention practices in European hospitals. From 2012 until 2021, she worked as a researcher and project leader at the

University Hospital Zurich Department of Infectious Diseases and Hospital Epidemiology, where she specialized in the application of implementation science and user-centered design to improve the systematic integration of evidence-based infection prevention practices into care delivery.

Dr. Suzanne Dhaini

Suzanne R. Dhaini is the Head of Nursing Research at the University Children's Hospital Zurich and a scientific collaborator at the University of Basel. She is a former Assistant Professor tenure track at the Hariri School of Nursing, American University of Beirut. Her work focuses on improving care quality through evidence-based nursing practices, workforce, and innovative community care models. Suzanne Dhaini has led and collaborated on several projects advancing nursing science and patient-centered care.

Prof. Dr. Carla Meyer-Masetti

Carla Meyer-Masetti is Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy in the Department of General Internal Medicine at the University Hospital of Bern and Adjunct Researcher at the Institute for Primary Care (BIHAM), University of Bern. She is also an associated researcher in the Pharmacoepidemiology and Clinical Pharmacy group at the University of Basel, where she collaborates on research in long-term and home care. Her work centers on effective, evidence-based clinical pharmacy approaches to improve medication safety for vulnerable patient groups. At Inselspital, she develops and implements new clinical pharmacy services and advances practice-based research.

Prof. Dr. Rahel Naef

Rahel Naef is Assistant Professor for Implementation Science in Nursing and Deputy Director at the Institute for Implementation Science in Health Care. She also heads the Implementation Science in Nursing Research Group at the University Hospital Zurich.
Rahel has taken a leadership role in generating scientific knowledge around family engagement and support in acute and critical care contexts. Her work utilizes intervention and implementation science research methods to advance the health and well-being of families and to establish participatory, inclusive, and collaborative healthcare systems, with a particular emphasis on families of critically ill persons, later life families, and bereaved family members. Most recently, she investigated the clinical effectiveness and implementation of FICUS®, a multicomponent, nurse-led, interprofessional model of critical care. She also explores the integration of evidence-based bereavement support practices across different healthcare settings. Rahel holds a Master's Degree in Nursing from the University of Toronto, Canada, and a PhD in Nursing Science from the University of Manchester, England.

Dr. Melvin "Skip" Olson

Skip Olson is an independent consultant to the pharmaceutical industry. He focuses on using his 30 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry to develop strategies and solutions on topics related to Evidence and Implementation Science.
Much of his time in pharma was at Novartis, he was the Global Head of Integrated Evidence Strategy and Innovation where he was responsible for promoting the very best in research methodology and applications of real-world and other evidence across all therapeutic areas and around the globe to drive better decision making. He has written several publications

on implementation science in the pharmaceutical industry and strives to foster its use there. He earned a Doctor of Science (ScD) in Biostatistics from Harvard University.

Dr. Marco Riguzzi

Marco Riguzzi is a Senior Nursing Scientist and Implementation Researcher at the Institute for Implementation Science in Health Care at the University of Zurich and at the Center for Clinical Nursing Science at the University Hospital Zurich, who also has a background in health services research and health economics. His research combines nursing science, clinical research and implementation science with a focus on the physical and mental health, functioning, management and resilience of families in vulnerable situations, such as a close other suffering from critical illness or injury, and the bereavement of a family member.

Prof. Dr. Marie Schneider

Marie P. Schneider, pharmacist, is Associate Professor of Medication Adherence, Interprofessionality and Health Communication at the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Western Switzerland, University of Geneva, Switzerland. She is also the Scientific Director of the living lab, pharma24, an academic community pharmacy located at the exit of the University Hospitals of Geneva. It serves as an academic hub at the interface between the University, and the community and hospital practices. Her research focuses on medication adherence in long-term diseases and on the implementation of interprofessional intervention programs in outpatient and community care. These programs are built upon interprofessional collaborations between patients, pharmacists, physicians and nurses. In teaching, she represents ISPSO in the Geneva Interprofessional Education Programme, which includes all health students in health of the University of Geneva and Geneva School of Health Sciences.

Dr. Bastiaan Van Grootven

Bastiaan Van Grootven is an SNF Ambizione fellow at the Institute for Nursing Science, University of Basel, with a strong focus on improving quality of care for older persons. He obtained his PhD in biomedical sciences from KU Leuven, Belgium, and has additional training in biomedical statistics and evaluating complex interventions. He currently leads the ENGAGE and COMMUNITY projects, which develop and test community-based programs to reduce frailty and social isolation among older adults. In addition, he contributes as a co-investigator to international trials such as RECOVER@HOME and is a member of several research consortia on integrated care, palliative care, and social isolation. His work combines evidence synthesis, program evaluation, and individualized healthcare approaches to advance implementation science in gerontology and geriatrics.

Ursina Wälchli

Ursina Wälchli works as Course Coordinator at the Institute for Implementation Science in Health Care and is engaged as a project management, design thinking and teamwork lecturer for the Digital Society Initiative and the Institute of Political Science at the University of Zurich. She holds a Master's degree in Science of Religion and Sociology from the University of Bern, where she was also involved in various qualitative research projects. From 2010 to 2020, she served as study program coordinator and student advisor at the Institute of Political Science.

Beyond academia, she works as a career counselor, stress and self-management coach, and meditation teacher. Her work is dedicated to helping individuals gain more clarity about their values, behavioral patterns, and motivations — thus finding more meaning in life, reducing stress, and creating a lifestyle aligned with their personal and professional goals.

Xueqi (Cassie) Wu

Cassie Wu holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in psychology from the University of Washington and University College London, respectively. Before joining the Institute for Implementation Science in Health Care as a PhD student, she worked in NHS clinical settings in London and conducted research on behavioral health interventions, including topics such as parenting, sleep, clinician implicit bias, and sustainable lifestyles.

Prof. Dr. Kaspar Wyss

Kaspar Wyss is Senior Project Leader at the Swiss TPH and Professor at the University of Basel. Using implementation science methods, he and his team investigate effects and effectiveness of public health measures for example in the area of suicide prevention or integrated care delivery in Switzerland, highlighting his proficiency in evaluating complex public health interventions through mixed methods approaches. Kaspar Wyss ensures that public health measures are assessed effectively, enabling stakeholders to make informed decisions. His collaborations with the governmental authorities and health services providers, and his commitment to education demonstrate his commitment to translating of research findings into policy and practice as well as into concrete action on health/disease and social systems.

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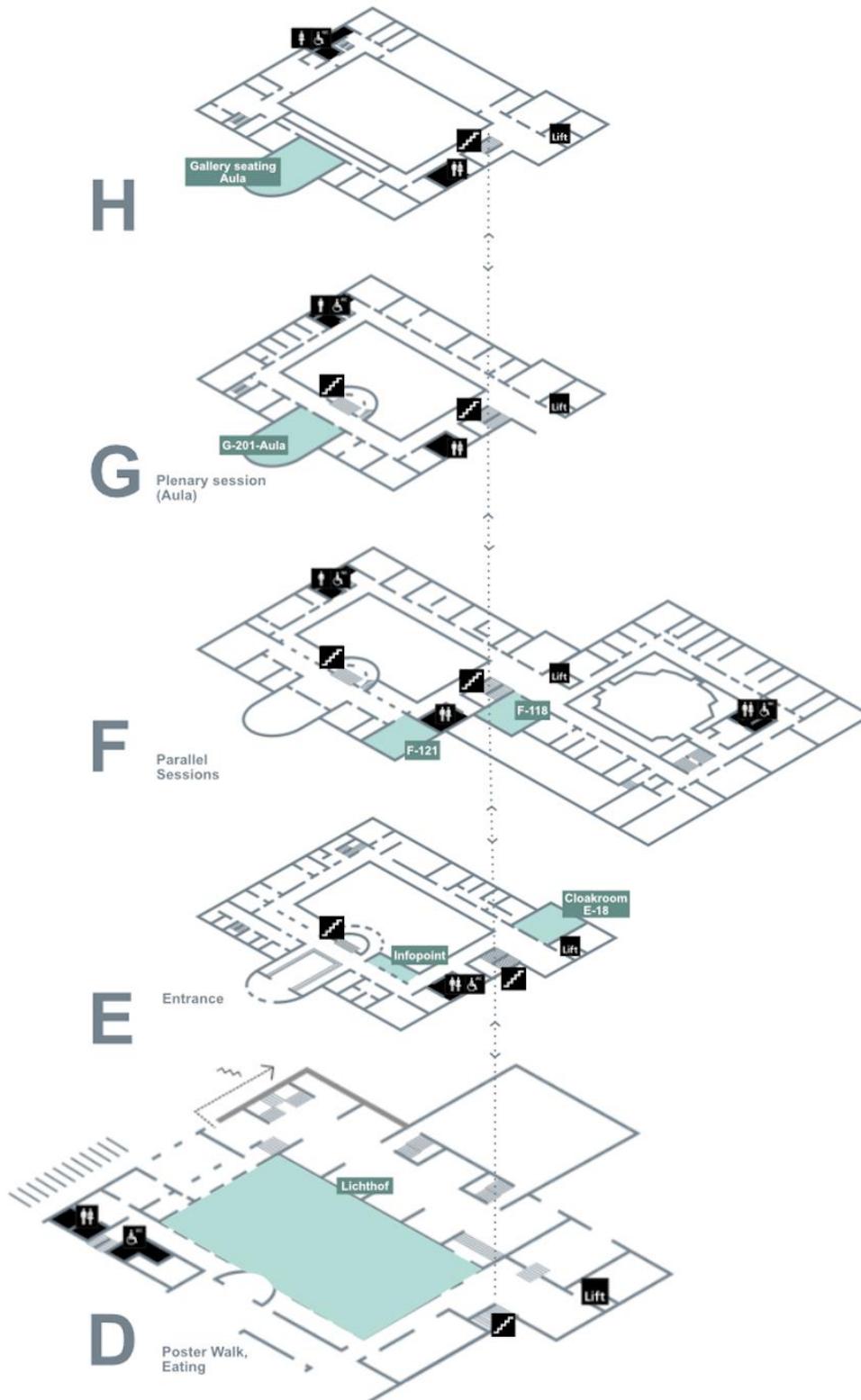
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To make your stay in Zurich as convenient as possible, we are pleased to recommend the following Sorell Hotels for IMPACT 2026 participants. Sorell offers an exclusive discount for all conference attendees using the code IMPACT26 when booking directly through the provided links.

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Sorell Hotel Rex	3★ Superior	~15 min	[Book Sorell Hotel Rex](#)
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Institute for Implementation
Science in Health Care

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SWISS IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE NETWORK

Map

Venue:

University of Zurich, main building KOL

Rämistrasse 71

8006 Zurich

How to find us

The conference is held in the heart of Zurich – just 15 minutes from the main train station and 40 minutes from the airport. There are three tram stations in walking distance: ETH/Universitätsspital, Kantonsschule, and Platte.

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